The invention in which an exclusive right is claimed is defined by the following:

1.   A method for recording a live presentation including a predefined content portion that includes a plurality of presentation slides displayed in response to slide triggering events during the live presentation, and a live portion with live audio and/or visual content performed in conjunction with display of said plurality of presentation slides during the live presentation, the method comprising the steps of:

(a)   generating slide display commands corresponding to said slide triggering events, for controlling display of said plurality of presentation slides during playback of a recorded presentation;

(b)   producing a data stream comprising data corresponding to the live portion of the presentation; and

(c)   saving the data stream to a file while automatically embedding the slide display commands into the data stream such that when the file is played, said live portion is reproduced and said plurality of presentation slides are displayed in substantial synchrony with said live portion as it is played, thereby replicating the live presentation.

2.   The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of producing the data stream comprises the steps of capturing the live portion as it is performed during the live presentation; and, encoding the live portion into a digital streaming format, thereby producing the data stream.

3.   The method of Claim 2, wherein the step of automatically embedding the slide display commands comprises the step of interleaving the slide display commands into the data stream as they are generated.

4.   The method of Claim 2, wherein the live presentation is performed using a local computer that generates the slide display commands in response to the slide triggering events; and wherein the live portion of the live presentation is captured and encoded into the data stream using an encoding computer linked in communication with the local computer, further comprising the steps of:

(a)   communicating the slide display commands from the local computer to the encoding computer; and

(b)   interleaving the slide display commands into the data stream as they are received by the encoding computer.

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5.   The method of Claim 2, wherein the live visual content is captured as a plurality of video frames, each being encoded into the data stream with a corresponding time stamp; and wherein the slide display commands are interleaved into the data stream such that each slide display command has a relative time stamp based on its location in the data stream.

6.   The method of Claim 5, wherein the plurality of video frames comprises a plurality of keyframes and deltaframes, further comprising the step of:

    (a)   adding a plurality of time index values to the data stream;

    (b)   indexing each of said plurality of keyframes to a corresponding time index value based on the time stamp of the keyframe; and

    (c)   indexing each slide display command to a nearest preceding keyframe time index value based on a time stamp of the slide display command.

7.   The method of Claim 1, wherein the step generating slide display commands comprises the steps of:

    (a)   capturing the slide triggering events as they occur during the live presentation; and

    (b)   generating slide display commands based on the slide triggering events that are captured.

8.   The method of Claim 1, wherein each presentation slide is associated with a slide file that is saved to a predetermined location, and at least one of the slide display commands references the predetermined location of an associated slide file.

9.   A method for reproducing on a viewing computer a presentation that was previously presented live, said viewing computer having a display, said presentation including a predefined content portion with a plurality of presentation slides that were displayed in response to slide triggering events during the presentation when it was presented live, and a live portion comprising live audio and/or visual content performed in conjunction with display of said plurality of presentation slides during the presentation when it was presented live, the method comprising the steps of:

    (a)   producing a recording of the presentation when it was presented live by performing the steps of:

        (i)   producing a data stream comprising data corresponding to the live portion of the presentation;

(ii)   generating slide display commands corresponding to said slide triggering events, each slide display command controlling display of an associated presentation slide when the recording is played;

(iii)   automatically embedding the slide display commands into the data stream; and

(iv)   saving the data stream to a data stream file that is accessible by the viewing computer;

(b)   saving the predefined content portion to at least one presentation slide file that is accessible by the viewing computer;

(c)   accessing the data stream file with the viewing computer;

(d)   reproducing the live portion of the presentation on the display of the viewing computer by playing the data stream file;

(e)   extracting the slide display commands from the data stream as the slide display commands are encountered while playing the data stream file;

(f)   in response to each slide display command that is extracted in the preceding step, accessing data corresponding to its associated presentation slide with the viewing computer; and

(g)   reproducing each of the plurality of presentation slides on the display of the viewing computer as data corresponding to that presentation slide is accessed by the viewing computer in the preceding step.

10.   The method of Claim 9, wherein the viewing computer accesses the data corresponding to the presentation slides with a browser program.

11.   The method of Claim 10, wherein each of said plurality of presentation slides is associated with a corresponding HTML slide file that is saved to a predetermined location on a network accessible by the viewing computer and at least a portion of said slide display commands comprise a link to the predetermined location of an associated HTML slide file on the network, each of said HTML slide files being opened in the browser program in response to its associated slide display command, said browser program interpreting the HTML slide files to reproduce said plurality of presentation slides.

12.   The method of Claim 11, wherein the link to each HTML slide files comprises an absolute reference to a location on the network at which the HTML slide file corresponding to the link is stored.

13.   The method of Claim 12, wherein each of the absolute references comprises a base portion identifying a base directory on a network resource in or below which the HTML slide files are stored, and a relative portion, identifying a location at which the HTML slide files are stored relative to the base directory, further comprising the steps of:

(a)   passing the base portion to the browser program to indicate a location of the base directory;

(b)   removing the base portion from each of the links in said slide display commands so as leave only the relative portion of the link; and

(c)   using the relative portion of each link to enable the browser program to access the HTML file associated with that link.

14.   The method of Claim 10, wherein the browser program includes a display area having a primary frame, and a secondary frame, a media player screen appearing in the secondary frame, said presentation slide files being reproduced in the primary frame, and said live visual content being reproduced in the media player screen.

15.   The method of Claim 14, further comprising the steps of:

(a)   indicating a location at which the data stream file is stored to the viewing computer;

(b)   directing the data stream to the secondary frame; and

(c)   playing the data stream in the secondary frame after at least a portion of the data stream file is received, to reproduce the live portion of the presentation.

16.   A system for recording a live presentation including a predefined content portion having a plurality of presentation slides that are displayed in response to slide triggering events during the live presentation, and a live portion with live audio and/or visual content performed in conjunction with display of said plurality of presentation slides during the live presentation, the system comprising:

(a)   a local computer having a memory in which a plurality of machine instructions are stored, a user interface, and a processor coupled to the memory for executing the machine instructions;

(b)   a presentation application program comprising a portion of the plurality of machine instructions stored in the memory of the local computer, the presentation application program enabling:

(i) a presenter to change slides during the live presentation in response to slide triggering events entered through the user interface; and

(ii) slide display commands to be generated in response to the slide triggering events;

(c) an audio capture subsystem that produces a digital audio signal corresponding to the live audio content; and

(d) an encoding application module comprising a portion of the plurality of machine instructions stored in the memory of the local computer, said encoding application module being used for:

(i) encoding the digital audio signal into a data stream having a streaming data format;

(ii) embedding the slide display commands into the data stream; and

(iii) saving the data stream to a data stream file such that when the data stream file is played, said audio content is reproduced, and said plurality of presentation slides are displayed in substantial synchrony with said audio content as it is reproduced, thereby replicating the live presentation.

17. The system of Claim 16, wherein the live portion of the live presentation further comprises live visual content, further including a video capture subsystem that produces a digital video signal corresponding the live visual content, whereby the digital video signal is encoded along with the digital audio signal into the data stream, such that the audio and visual content is reproduced in synchrony when the data stream file is played.

18. The system of Claim 17, wherein the live visual content is captured as a plurality of video frames, each being encoded into the data stream with a corresponding time stamp, and the slide display commands are interleaved into the data stream, such that each slide display command has a relative time stamp based on its location in the data stream.

19. The system of Claim 18, wherein the plurality of video frames comprises a plurality of keyframes and deltaframes, and the encoding module further performs the functions of:

(a) adding a plurality of time index values to the data stream;

(b) indexing each of said plurality of keyframes to a corresponding time index value, based on a timestamp of the keyframe; and

(c)   indexing each slide display command to a nearest preceding keyframe time index value, based on a time stamp of the slide display command.

20.   A system for recording a live presentation including a predefined content portion having a plurality of presentation slides that are displayed in response to slide triggering events during the live presentation, and a live portion comprising live audio content performed in conjunction with display of said plurality of presentation slides during the live presentation, the system comprising:

(a)   a local computer having a memory in which a plurality of machine instructions are stored, a user interface, and a processor coupled to the memory for executing the machine instructions;

(b)   an audio capture subsystem that produces a digital audio signal corresponding to the live audio content;

(c)   an encoding computer having a memory in which a plurality of machine instructions are stored, and a processor coupled to the memory for executing the machine instructions, the encoding computer being linked in communication with the local computer and the audio capture subsystem;

(d)   a portion of the plurality of machine instructions stored in the memory of the encoding computer comprising an encoding module, execution of the encoding module performing the functions of:

(i)   encoding the digital audio signal into a data stream having a streaming data format; and

(ii)   saving the data stream to a data stream file; and

(e)   a presentation application program comprising a portion of the plurality of machine instructions stored in the memory of the local computer, execution of the presentation application program enabling:

(i)   a presenter to change slides during the live presentation by entering slide triggering events through the user interface;

(ii)   slide display commands to be generated in response to the slide triggering events; and

(iii)   communication of the slide display commands to the encoding computer, said slide display commands being embedded into the data stream by the encoding module as they are received by the encoding computer, such that when the data stream file is played, said audio content is reproduced and said plurality of

presentation slides are displayed in substantial synchrony with said audio content as it is reproduced, thereby replicating the live presentation.

21. The system of Claim 20, wherein the live portion of the live presentation further comprises live visual content, further including a video capture subsystem that produces a digital video signal corresponding to the live visual content, said digital video signal being encoded into the data stream by the encoding module executing on the encoding computer, such that the audio content and visual content are reproduced in synchrony when the data stream file is played.

22. The system of Claim 21, wherein the live visual content is captured as a plurality of video frames, each being encoded into the data stream with a corresponding time stamp, and wherein the slide display commands are interleaved into the data stream, such that each slide display command has a relative time stamp based on it location in the data stream.

23. The system of Claim 22, wherein the plurality of video frames comprises a plurality of keyframes and deltaframes, and the encoding module further performs the functions of:

(a) adding a plurality of time index values to the data stream;

(b) indexing each of said plurality of keyframes to a corresponding time index value, based on a time stamp of the keyframe; and

(c) indexing each slide display command to a nearest preceding keyframe time index value, based on a time stamp of the slide display command.

24. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for recording a live presentation having a predefined content portion that includes a plurality of presentation slides displayed on a computer in response to slide triggering events during the live presentation, and a live portion comprising live audio and/or visual content performed in conjunction with display of said plurality of presentation slides during the live presentation, execution of the computer-executable instructions causing a computer to:

(a) generate slide display commands corresponding to said slide triggering events, for controlling display of said plurality of presentation slides during playback of a recorded presentation;

(b) produce a data stream comprising data corresponding to the live portion of the presentation; and

(c)   save the data stream to a file while automatically embedding the slide display commands into the data stream, such that when the file is played, said live portion is reproduced and such that said plurality of presentation slides are displayed in substantial synchrony with said live portion, thereby replicating the live presentation.

26.   The computer-readable medium of Claim 25, wherein execution of the computer-executable instructions further cause the live portion to be captured as it is performed during the live presentation and to be encoded into a digital streaming format.

27.   The computer-readable medium of Claim 26, wherein the slide display commands are interleaved into the data stream as they are generated.

28.   The computer-readable medium of Claim 26, wherein the live visual content is captured as a plurality of video frames, each being encoded into the data stream with a corresponding time stamp, and the slide display commands are interleaved into the data stream such that each slide display command has a relative time stamp based on its location in the data stream.

29.   The computer-readable medium of Claim 26, wherein the plurality of video frames comprises a plurality of keyframes and deltaframes, execution of the computer-executable instructions causing a computer to:

(a)   add a plurality of time index values to the data stream;

(b)   index each of said plurality of keyframes to a corresponding time index value, based on a timestamp of the keyframe; and

(c)   index each slide display command to a nearest preceding keyframe time index value, based on a time stamp of the slide display command.

30.   The computer-readable medium of Claim 25, wherein:

(a)   the slide triggering events are captured as they occur during the live presentation;

(b)   the slide display commands are generated based on the slide triggering events that are captured.